CLAIMS

1. A method for carrying out and subsequently verifying substitutions and/or adjustments of mechanical components in an automatic packaging machine (1) during the size change over , said machine (1) being equipped with a computerized unit (UCC,2,D) for verifying and storing instructions related to the operations necessary to change the size of the articles being processed, said operations including substitution of specific mechanical components and/or adjustment of the spatial positioning of specific mechanical components;

the method being characterized in that it includes :

recalling information elements relevant to the size change over stored in said unit (UCC,2,D) and transferring said information elements to portable processing and recording means (3,E), said portable means (3,E) being equipped with code reading means (8) for reading identifying codes (6a,6b) associated to said mechanical components;

displaying, on said portable means (3,E), a list of mechanical components to substitute and/or components whose positioning is to be adjusted together with information elements relevant to the mechanical components;

the method further including:

a) for each component to be substituted:

    i) verifying the correctness of the concerned component by said code reading means (8), of said portable processing means (3,E), detecting said component identifying code (6b) and comparing the detected

code (6b) with the information elements stored in the processing means (3,E);

ii) identifying the substitute component, again by said code reading means (8), of said portable processing means (3,E), detecting and comparing said substitute component identifying code (6b); and

iii) carrying out the substitution of the concerned component;

b) and for each component whose position is to be adjusted:

i) identifying exactly the component to be adjusted by said code reading means (8), of said portable processing means (3,E), detecting said component identifying code (6b) and comparing the detected code (6b) with the information elements stored in the processing means (3,E);

ii) displaying on said portable processing means (3,E) information elements relevant to a new positioning of the component to be adjusted; and

iii) carrying out the adjustment of said component displacing it to the new positioning while verifying constantly the exact correspondence with said information elements displayed on said portable processing means (3,E).

2. Method, according to claim 1, characterized in that said components identifying codes (6a,6b) are bar-codes situated on the components; said bar-codes being read by an optical scanner (8) carried by said portable processing and storing means (3).

3. Method, according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said portable processing and storing means (3) include a palm-size computer; the information are transferred from said computerized unit (UCC,2,D) to said

5 palm-size computer (3,E) by a connection obtained via a serial cable (4) between the central unit (UCC,2,D) and said palm-size computer (3,E).

4. Method, according to any of claims from 1 to 3,

10 characterized in that said mechanical component is adjusted, by displacing it to said new positioning by adjusting means (9) coupled to the mechanical component, said adjusting means (9) being, in turn, associated to means (7) for displaying corresponding numerical values.

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